



Sixth Grade Summer Reading

You are asked to read two books over the summer for summer reading. The first book can be chosen from the two options below. The required book chosen from the two options for summer reading will be paired with a writing activity. Both choices relate to the theme of “Making Connections.” You will have a pen pal in Wamunyu, Kenya through Kenya Connect.

Your second book will be of your own choosing. You may want to visit a local library, an independent bookstore, or use www.common sense media.org to find a book that interests you. Please choose a book that connects with your interests and personality.

Summer reading choice	<i>I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives</i> by Caitlin Alifirenka, Martin Ganda, and Liz Welch	ISBN-13 : 978-0316241335	416 Pages
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OR you may choose to read this book:

Book Choice	<i>Letters from Rifka</i> by Karen Hesse	ISBN-13 : 978-0312535612	176 Pages
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You will be starting a pen pal relationship with a student at Sofia Primary School in Wamunyu, Kenya, through Kenya Connect in the fall. You will have the opportunity to exchange several letters throughout the school year.

Reading for 20 minutes each day is recommended. After completing the required book, please choose one more book that interests you. Newbery Award and Newbery Honor books are always a good choice. Also, a good source to check books is: www.common sense media.org.

Writing Assignment:

After reading one of the books above, you will write your first letter to your new pen pal at Sophia Primary School in Wamunyu, Kenya. This letter should be addressed “To my friend in Sophia Primary School,” and you’ll be paired with a student who will write back directly to you. Your next letter will then be directed to that specific student. *Your letter should be at least 500 words long (at 11-point Arial font).*

The students in Kenya can't wait to correspond with you! Remember that the point is to make connections with these students and that their access to technology is very limited. You can find more instructions, see sample letters, and find some helpful hints at <http://www.kenyaconnect.org/pen-pal/> (Kenya Connect is the organization helping to connect us with our pen pals).

Please bring a printed copy of your typed letter on the first day of school. You may also share your letter with me through your Montgomery School Google account. Be sure to check share permissions so that I can open your document.

Instructions for the letter:

- 1) Please make sure that the heading of each letter includes the following information:
 - "To my friend in Sofia Primary School"
 - Your full name and the name of your school, "Montgomery School"
 - Your age, grade, and gender
- 2) You may want to include a few of the Kiswahili words listed below in your letter. The students you are writing to know three languages: Kikamba (a tribal language), Kiswahili (a general language used in the region), and English. You will write in English, and they want to learn English from you, but it is polite to use a few words from the language they most often use. Here are a few words:

<i>Jambo</i> = hello <i>Habari</i> = how are you? <i>Mzuri</i> = I am well <i>Asante</i> = thank you <i>Asante sana</i> = thank you very much <i>Kwaheri</i> = goodbye <i>Karibu</i> = welcome (you are welcome)

- 3) If you need ideas of what to write about, you can check here:
<https://www.kenyaconnect.org/pen-pal/>
- 4) Remember, you want to get to know your pen pal and let them get to know you. Please mention sports, foods you like, pets, and family.
- 5) Always sign your letter at the end. You may write *Sincerely*, *Best regards*, or *Best wishes* before you sign (or type) your name. Sign the letter with your first name only, but use your full name in the letter's header. Please let us know if you have any questions!

If you have any questions, please let me know!

kmulzet@montgomeryschool.org (6th Grade Language Arts)